

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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16

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 /031 W

----- 096440

R 061037Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 957

UNCLAS RANGOON 00426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BM

SUBJECT: SUGAR CANE FARMING

1. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT INVOLVING MOA COOPERATION SEND FIVE MAN TEAM TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR 2/3 MONTHS TO STUDY SUGAR CAN FARMING IN ORDER TO MAKE BURMA SELF-SUFFICIENT. PROBLEM: DUE DISEASE, SOIL CONDITIONS, ETC., ONCE SUPERIOR QUALITY/QUANTITY DETERIORATING. TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF ONE AGRONOMIST, BOTANIST, PLANT PATHOLOGIST, SOIL CHEMIST, AND ENTOMOLOGIST.

2. WE AWARE PROGRAM NOT EXACTLY CU PROJECT AND WE CANNOT FUND FIVE MAN TEAM BUT PERHAPS DA OR OTHER SOURCE MIGHT.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST BECAUSE:

A. IT IS FIRST TIME MOE HAS COME RIGHT OUT AND ASKED FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANCE;

B. IT WAS DONE DURING JOHN BROWNELL'S CALL ON THE MINISTER, AND;

C. THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WAS GIVEN AS PREFERRED LOCATION AS RESULT OF U SAN THA AUNG'S (DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION) ADVICE FOLLOWING HIS VISIT LAST JUNE TO EAST-WEST CENTER.

BROWNELL HAS SEEN MOE OFFICIALS THREE TIMES DURING PRESENT TWO-DAY VISIT AND BEEN INVITED TO STAY LONGER NEXT TIME TO GO UP-UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRY. PROJECT COULD BE CAPSTONE OUR EFFORT REGULARIZE BURMESE

PARTICIPATION EAST-WEST CENTER ACTIVITIES.

OSBORN

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NNN

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